

Not throned afar, remotely high, untouched, unmoved by human pains, but daily, in the midst of life, our Savior in the Godhead reigns

In every insult, rift, and war where color, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love, and praise.

***Benediction** Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

***Response:** “Shalom”

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom, Kami no mi megumi. *(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, may we be blessed with grace from God.)*

Sha rom, sha rom, mata a u hi ma de. Sha rom, sha rom yuta kani, yuta kani, yuta kani. *(Peace, peace, until we meet again. Peace, peace, abundantly, abundantly, abundantly.)*

Postlude Haruko Sakakibara
“Sarabande” from English Suite No.1 by J.S.Bach (1685-1750)

We invite you to remain seated during the Postlude as we enjoy the music and God’s presence together. If you need to go, please feel free to do so. Go with God’s blessings.

In Appreciation:

Greeters: Pattie Hashimoto, Miko Kumagai
Ushers: Betsy Eskridge, Carla Hart
Parking: Phillip Chew
Sound System: Jonathan Sakakibara
Zoom Moderator/Greeter: Lori Hart
Altar Flowers: Carla Hart



The Celebration of Worship

June 22, 2025 • Teacher/Pianist Appreciation Day

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave
Worship Leader: Titus Toyama
Pianist: Haruko Sakakibara
Choir Conductor: Ben Pryor
Japanese Reader: Haruko Sakakibara

Centering Prayer for Worship

*Loving God,
Give us pure hearts that we may see You,
humble hearts that we may hear You,
hearts of love that we may serve You,
hearts of faith that we may live for You,
reverent hearts that we may worship You,
here and in the world out there,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Prelude Haruko Sakakibara

***Introit**

All: Make us one, Lord, make us one. Holy Spirit make us one. Let Your love flow so the world will know, we are one in You.

** Those who can, please stand*

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

Call to Worship

Titus Toyama

Leader: Bless the Lord for the earth God has made, the seas and skies, forests and fields,

People: All show Your goodness and glory, awesome Creator. We worship the power of Your beauty and majesty.

Leader: Here and now God is among us, beside us, inside us, empowering us for the purposes of heaven.

All: Not denying the world, but delighting in it, not condemning the world, but redeeming it through Jesus Christ. Receive our grateful praise, Lord of all the earth!

*Opening Hymn: Shout to the Lord (#485)

My Jesus, my Savior, Lord there is none like You.

All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love.

My comfort, my shelter, tower of refuge and strength.

Let every breath, all that I am never cease to worship You.

Refrain. Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing,

Power and majesty, praise to the King.

Mountains bow down and the seas will roar

at the sound of Your name.

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands

Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand.

Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Invitation to Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: The longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole. Please join me as we pray together.

Opportunity To Present Offerings

All: Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One. Give thanks because God's given Jesus Christ, God's Son. (Repeat) And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich" because of what the Lord has done for us. (Repeat) Give thanks. Give thanks.

*Doxology

All: Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication

Titus Toyama

Joys & Concerns

Titus Toyama

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Congregation

All: Our Parent Who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

*Sending Hymn: Christ Is Alive! (#108)

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

He hadn't worn clothes for a long time, nor lived at home; he lived in the cemetery. When he saw Jesus he screamed, fell before him, and howled, "What business do you have messing with me? You're Jesus, Son of the High God, but don't give me a hard time!" (The man said this because Jesus had started to order the unclean spirit out of him.) Time after time the demon threw the man into convulsions. He had been placed under constant guard and tied with chains and shackles, but crazed and driven wild by the demon, he would shatter the bonds. Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "Legion. My name is Legion," he said, because many demons afflicted him. And they begged Jesus desperately not to order them to the bottomless pit.

A large herd of pigs was grazing and rooting on a nearby hill. The demons begged Jesus to order them into the pigs. He gave the order. It was even worse for the pigs than for the man. Crazed, they stampeded over a cliff into the lake and drowned. Those tending the pigs, scared to death, bolted and told their story in town and country. People went out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man from whom the demons had been sent, sitting there at Jesus' feet, wearing decent clothes and making sense. It was a holy moment, and for a short time they were more reverent than curious. Then those who had seen it happen told how the demoniac had been saved.

Later, a great many people from the Gerasene countryside got together and asked Jesus to leave—too much change, too fast, and they were scared. So Jesus got back in the boat and set off. The man whom he had delivered from the demons asked to go with him, but he sent him back, saying, "Go home and tell everything God did in you." So he went back and preached all over town everything Jesus had done in him.

Musical Interlude

Haruko Sakakibara

"Chorale" by J.S.Bach (1685-1750)

Prayer of Confession

Titus Toyama

Leader: We have wounded your heart, O God, forgetting the power of Your transforming love. We feel overwhelmed by the evil we see all around us, despair and hopelessness keep trying to convince us to give up working for justice and peace.

People: We stumble in the darkness of life's suffering, forgetting to carry your hope with us. Have mercy on us, God of patience.

Leader: Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine.

All: In your great compassion, forgive what we have been, help us change what we are, and guide what we will be, so that we may partner with You in caring for all creation. Amen.

A Time for Contemplation

This time of quiet is offered to encourage you to share your personal thoughts with God as well as listen to God through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Assurance of God's Grace

Titus Toyama

Leader: In the power of Christ's life and death, our sins are forgiven, our life is restored, and God's grace becomes our guide through life.

All: Thanks be to God! We are not left alone, but find strength and renewal in God's gracious love.

***Response to God's Forgiveness:** Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (#582 Glory to God hymnal)

All Sing: Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

***Passing of the Peace**

Titus Toyama

Leader: As the forgiven and redeemed people of God, let us share our peace and joy with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Children’s Message

Donna Komure-Toyama

Teacher/Pianist Appreciation

***Hymn of Reflection: Great Is Thy Faithfulness (#276)**

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not, as Thou has been Thou forever will be.

Refrain. Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see; all I have needed Thy hand has provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Refrain.

Unison Prayer of Guidance

All: Now may the words of our mouths, the meditations of our hearts, the interpretation of our minds, and the response of our hands be acceptable to You, our Lord and our Redeemer. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.

1st Scripture Reading (Japanese)

Haruko Sakakibara

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

2nd Scripture Reading

Titus Toyama

1 Kings 19:1-8

Ahab reported to Jezebel everything that Elijah had done, including the massacre of the prophets. Jezebel immediately sent a messenger to Elijah with her threat: “The gods will get you for this and I’ll get even with you! By this time tomorrow you’ll be as dead as any one of those prophets.”

When Elijah saw how things were, he ran for dear life to Beersheba, far in the south of Judah. He left his young servant there and then went on into the desert another day’s journey. He came to a lone broom bush and collapsed in its shade, wanting in the worst way to be done with it all—to just die: “Enough of this, God! Take my life—I’m ready to join my ancestors in the grave!” Exhausted, he fell asleep. Suddenly an angel shook him awake and said, “Get up and eat!” He looked around and, to his surprise, right by his head were a loaf of bread baked on some coals and a jug of water. He ate the meal and went back to sleep. The angel of God came back, shook him awake again, and said, “Get up and eat some more—you’ve got a long journey ahead of you.” He got up, ate and drank his fill, and set out. Nourished by that meal, he walked forty days and nights, all the way to Horeb, the mountain of God.

Sermon & 3rd Scripture Reading

Rev. Dr. Sarah Nave

“With God, Misery Has Company. And Transformation.”

Luke 8:26-39

They sailed on to the country of the Gerasenes, directly opposite Galilee. As Jesus stepped out onto land, a man from town met him; he was a victim of demons.